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## IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF BELIZE FOR BOVINE EMBRYOS EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES

The embryos must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. The certificate shall contain the name and address of both the consignor and the consignee and complete identification of the embryos to be exported. Additional information shall include:

### CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

1. The United States is free of foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, trypanosomiasis and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.
2. The donor female and donor male must be inspected on the farm(s) of origin and found to be clinically free of evidence of contagious diseases within 30 days of collection.
3. On the farm(s) of origin of the donor female and donor male, no clinical cases of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV), brucellosis, tuberculosis, bovine viral diarrhea (BVD), campylobacteriosis or trichomoniasis have occurred within 3 months prior to collection of the embryos for export.
4. The donor female and donor male must not have been corralled with, pastured with or have been exposed to animals showing clinical signs of IBR/IPV, brucellosis, tuberculosis, BVD, campylobacteriosis or trichomoniasis for 60 days prior to collection of the embryos for export.
5. The veterinarian issuing the health certificate must personally observe the artificial or natural insemination of the donor dam, flushing of embryos from the donor dam, and the processing of the recovered embryos for shipment.
6. The embryos were washed at least 10 times with each progressive washing diluted 1:100 according to procedures recommended by the International Embryo Transfer Society.
7. The embryos were examined microscopically and only embryos with intact zona pellucida are in this shipment.
8. The indelible markings on the ampoules or straws identify the embryos according to the key shown on this health certificate.
9. The embryos must originate from an embryo transfer (ET) unit that is approved by the USDA.

10. If artificial insemination is used, a semen export certificate for the donor male must accompany the embryo shipment. This certificate must show that the donor male was eligible to export semen to Belize in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Belize conditions for importation of bovine semen. (See Appendix 1).
11. All equipment used for handling the embryos must be replaced by new or sterilized equipment between each washing.
12. All standard sterile procedures must be observed.
13. The embryo storage container and shipping container must be examined and found empty of embryos before use for this shipment.
14. The embryos must be maintained under lock and key or in the custody of the veterinarian issuing the health certificate until they are placed in the shipping container and sealed with government seals. The seal number must be recorded on the health certificate.
15. The sealed container must be delivered to the nearest airport for direct shipment to Belize.
16. Embryos may be transhipped via the United States provided the container remains unopened.
17. Tests on all donor animals shall be conducted in laboratories approved by the USDA. The health certificate will show:
  - A. The identification of each donor female and donor male by breed, registry number, and ear tag.
  - B. The name and address of the laboratory conducting the tests.
  - C. The dates of collection of all embryos in the shipment.
  - D. The dates and results of the tests on each donor female and donor male.
  - E. The method of testing.
  - F. The name and address of the ET unit collecting and processing the embryos.

## TEST REQUIREMENTS

The donor female and donor male must have had negative results to the tests for the following diseases within 30 days prior to entry into the ET unit:

1. Brucellosis - Standard tube test at less than 1:30 dilution.
2. Tuberculosis - Intradermal caudal fold test using bovine PPD tuberculin.
3. IBR - Virus neutralization test. If the donor animals have been vaccinated, the embryos must be washed in trypsin according to the procedures recommended by the IETS, and the veterinarian issuing the health certificate must certify that this has been done.
4. BVD - Virus neutralization test. If the donor animals have been vaccinated, the embryos must be washed in trypsin according to the procedures recommended by the IETS, and the veterinarian issuing the health certificate must certify that this has been done.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

1. The importer must obtain an import permit from the Principal Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Belmopan.
2. The Principal Veterinary Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture in Belmopan is to be notified at least 2 days in advance of the date and expected time of arrival for embryos at the point of entry.
3. A veterinary officer of the Ministry shall check the health certificate and other documents for compliance, and stamp these as required for entry. The officer will also check that the container is sealed. A veterinary officer will only be available during the day.
4. The importer is required to inform the Principal Veterinary Officer of:
  - I. The number of unused embryos and their storage.
    - A. The number of successfully impregnated recipient cows, with the proper identification and the farm where the recipients are located.
    - B. The number of successfully impregnated recipient cows that calve and the address of the farm where they calve.
    - C. Any abortions (death) or systemic illness affecting the recipient cows.